

What is claimed:

1. A system for processing spatially-referred information, said information defining objects in a n-dimensions space and comprising for each object information of form, information of position and information of semantic or formal attributes, said attributes being characteristics or properties of said object, said system comprising:

means for structuring said spatially-referred information, by separating the topologic information from the information attributes;

means for cutting each topologic information into geometric information constituting information of form, and into information of position;

means for ordering descriptions of said objects into elementary families having the same attributes, by applying criteria formed into a hierarchy; and

means for organizing structured information into distinct tables comprising a block of information containing:

a topologic table, referred as the corpus, containing, for each elementary family, all the geometric forms defining objects with similar attributes, and

a table of attributes, referred as the index,

containing the semantic and formal attributes, associated with the objects.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the cutting means are arranged for simultaneously describing the form and the position of each object by combining several of said geometric forms.

3. The system according to claim 2, further comprising means for selecting, as at least several of said geometric forms, basic forms composed from elementary forms.

4. An electronic apparatus comprising:

display means;

means for acquiring data and controls;

means for storing information that contains at least one block of structured spatially-referred information defining objects in a n-dimensions space and comprising for each object information of form, information of position and information of semantic or formal attributes that are characteristics or properties of said object, said structured information having separate tables for topologic information and information of attributes; and

means for operating said at least one block of information.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a data transmission network for downloading said at least one block of topologic information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus provides access to assistance services.

7. A method for processing spatially-referred information, said information defining objects in a n-dimensions space and comprising for each object topologic information and information of semantic or formal attributes, said attributes being characteristics or properties of said object, said method comprising the steps of:

organizing said information into distinct tables:

a topologic table, referred to as the corpus, containing a sequence of elementary families, each successive elementary family being formed with basic forms defining objects or parts of object with identical attributes, and

a table of attributes, referred as the index, containing the semantic and formal attributes associated to

said objects, including their graphic attributes of representation.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising a mechanism of corresponding between the corpus and the index.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the mechanism of correspondence comprises a correspondence of position between the topologies in the corpus and the attributes in the object.

10. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

defining a hierarchical set of criteria related to the attributes of the objects for a given application, and

classifying the objects into elementary families containing only objects or parts of objects having the same attributes by applying the criteria in the order of their hierarchy.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least a sub-family of objects having the same attributes is sub-

divided into elementary families as a function of at least one topologic criterion.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein groups of objects comprising one or more elementary family selected as a function of the hierarchic level of the criterion of attributes that is used, are globally operated.

13. The method according to claim 10, wherein objects are operated by calling a criterion present in at least two branches of the hierarchy of said criteria.

14. An application of the method according to claim 7, for making blocks of structured information from pre-existing spatially-referred information stored in files under any format, each block of information comprising a corpus of topologic information and an index of attributes.

15. An application according to claim 14, comprising the following steps:

- defining a hierarchy for criteria of attributes in function of the application,

- analyzing a source of information for identifying on one hand the topologic information, and, on

the other hand, the attributes,

- choosing a set of basic forms in function of the nature of information and of the aim of the application,

- building a topologic table of forms (corpus) and a table of the attributes (index),

- building a mechanism of correspondence between said table of forms and said table of attributes, and

- arranging the elementary families of the block.